

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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Governor Martin O'Malley

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DHMH Secretary Josh
Sharfstein

July 26, 2013

New Report Provides Health Data and Resources for Maryland's Hispanic Community



The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has released a new report, "Hispanics in Maryland: Health Data and Resources," which highlights a number of troubling health disparities facing Hispanics in our state. The report provides information about the social

and economic well being, mortality rates, healthcare access, health risks, chronic disease, infectious disease, maternal and infant health, and mental health among the Hispanic population in Maryland.

According to the report, the five leading causes of death for Hispanics in Maryland are cancer, heart disease, stroke, accidents, and diabetes. Results of the report indicate that the HIV incidence rate was 3.6 times higher and the AIDS incidence rate was 4.7 times higher for Hispanics than for Non-Hispanic whites in Maryland. The percentage of births to Hispanic mothers younger than 18 years of age was twice that of whites; similarly, the percentage of births to unmarried Hispanic mothers was 1.7 times higher than that of whites.

This report serves as the second (the first, [Asians and Pacific Islanders in Maryland: Health Data and Resources report](#), was published in May 2013) in a series to raise awareness of health conditions and provide educational resources for minority populations in Maryland. As stated in the report, the 2010 Census showed that the Hispanic population accounted for 8.2 percent of the total population in Maryland. The Maryland Hispanic population has doubled from 227,916 persons in 2000, to 470,632 persons in 2010. As a result of the growing diversity of Maryland's population, it is critical for us to understand the health challenges facing specific communities. This knowledge allows us to work to improve outcomes in minority health with targeted resources and outreach.

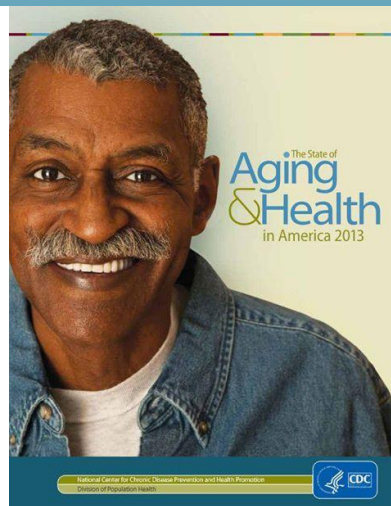
Click [here](#) to read the DHMH press release.

Click [here](#) to access the Hispanics in Maryland report

Click [here](#) to view SHIP Racial and Ethnic Disparities Data.

The 2013 State of Aging and Health in America Report Released

The State of Aging and Health in America 2013 is the sixth volume of a series, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which presents a snapshot of the health and aging landscape in the US. This series presents the most current information and statistics about the health of adults 65 and older.



Twentieth century advances in protecting and promoting health among older adults have provided many opportunities for overcoming the challenges of an aging society.

Effective public health strategies and advances in medical treatment contributed to a dramatic increase in average life expectancy in the US, and a transition from the risk of infectious disease to the growing impact of chronic disease. Although infectious agents still present significant health challenges in the US, these diseases are no longer the leading killers of American adults. Instead, heart disease and cancer pose their greatest risks as people age, along with other chronic diseases and conditions, including stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes.

The health indicators presented in The State of Aging and Health in America 2013 highlight these risk factors and various opportunities for prevention through a presentation of data, trends, and innovative resources. As suggested in the report, in order to continue to improve the health of older adults, the public health sector should continue to collaborate with aging services to improve opportunities for physical activity and access to care.

Click [here](#) to access The State of Aging Health in America.

Click [here](#) to view the SHIP Healthy Aging Featured Topic.

Climate Change Poses a Public Health Threat in Maryland



The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), in conjunction with the Climate Communication Consortium of

Maryland and George Mason University, recently released the results of the first comprehensive survey of Maryland residents to find out what they think about the public health impacts of climate change. The survey was conducted to help DHMH understand public attitudes about health and the environment, and particularly about two important environmental changes occurring today: climate change and changes in the energy picture of the state and nation.

As described in the survey report, many people identify threats to health as one of the most important consequences of climate change. According to the results of the survey, air pollution was identified as the top personal health risk with 70 percent of state residents saying air pollution is a major or moderate risk to their health. Additionally, 79 percent of residents reported that in the past year, extreme weather posed a health risk to people in their community. The survey results provide insight for policy makers, public health officials, and the public about Maryland's response to climate change and energy needs.

Click [here](#) to read the full Public Health, Energy, and Climate Change survey report.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the number of unhealthy air days.

Call for Abstracts Deadline Extended - Reduce Tobacco Use Conference 2014



The 11th National Reduce Tobacco Use Conference being held April 10-11, 2014 is accepting abstract submissions. The Call for Abstracts submission deadline has been extended until August 8, 2013. The National Reduce Tobacco Use Conference 2014 seeks plenary, sub-plenary, and concurrent

session presenters to provide attendees with effective and replicable strategies for preventing and reducing the use of tobacco products among youth and young adults. The National Reduce Tobacco Use Conference will showcase the latest in tobacco use prevention, reduction, and cessation with youth and young adults.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to share your expertise and submit an online abstract application.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the proportion of adults who smoke.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the proportion of youth who use any kind of tobacco product

News from the Office of Primary Care Access

Workshop Will Focus on Needs Assessment, Economic Impact and Mapping Tools

The National Center for Rural Health Works (RHW) will hold a Regional Workshop on August 15, 2013, in Denver, Colorado. The workshop, hosted by the Colorado Rural Health Center, will provide training in the following areas: determining the financial feasibility of or assessing the need for a new or expanded rural health service; community health needs assessment (CHNA) toolkit; economic impact; and mapping tools. Registration is limited.

Click [here](#) for more information and to visit the RHW Workshops page

Affordable Care Act Resources

The new Health Insurance Marketplace (HIM) will open for enrollment on October 1, 2013. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has updated HealthCare.gov to make it easier for consumers to sign up for coverage. For Spanish-speaking consumers, CuidadoDeSalud.gov will also be updated to match HealthCare.gov's new consumer focus.

Access the new toll-free Health Insurance Marketplace call center where consumers can obtain information on their state's HIM at 1-800-318-2596.

Click [here](#) to visit the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Web site. Click [here](#) to visit the Maryland Health Connection Web site.


Please Remember to Register for the Rural Action Assembly

The Maryland State Office of Rural Health (SORH), the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) and the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) are collaborating to host a day and a half conference focused on defining key issues for Maryland's rural communities. We hope through the integration of key rural stakeholders, we will work towards creating sustainable rural communities and continue planning for the future and prosperity of rural Maryland.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Remember to Submit your Nominations for the Rural Impact Awards

The Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), the Rural Maryland Council (RMC), and the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) will be recognizing individuals and organizations in rural



communities for outstanding efforts that have impacted the economic development, sustainability, and health of their communities in rural Maryland at a Rural Impact Award Dinner the night of October 17th. Nominations are due by August 31, 2013.

Click [here](#) for more details about nominating a deserving program or individual.